

Warning; is this the last Newsletter that you will receive?

A message from your Membership Secretary

A reminder to the few of you who have yet to renew your membership - you know who you are because you will have received several reminders from me. Please either send me your renewal payment or let me know if you are not planning to rejoin for any reason. Remember that any renewals after 28th Feb without good reason will incur a late renewal charge of half the new member joining fee.

Mike Winston

Make cheques payable to HWDMAC and include a stamped addressed reply envelope and a note of your e-mail address if you have one.

Send to: Mr M Winston, 22, Disraeli Crescent, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP13 5EJ

The next club meeting will be

Monday, 23rd February, 2015

in the Royal British Legion,

Common Road

Flackwell Heath

Bucks

HP10 9NS

At 8.00 pm

and will be



A TALK BY DR NICK NEWTON, PRESIDENT OF THE VINTAGE GLIDER CLUB

The Vintage Glider Club was founded in 1973 to preserve the remaining pre-war gliders in Britain. It has grown from that into a large international group caring for several hundred gliders. Many of our classic glider models are based on the gliders cared for by the club so this should be a very interesting talk. Our friends from the Maidenhead MFC have been invited to join us so let us give them a warm welcome.

Chairman's Channel

I hope everyone is feeling good about 2015 and that we get similar weather to that we had last year. I had to remind myself that we are mid-way through February and that spring isn't too far away.

So what has happened so far this year? Well, we had our first committee meeting this month and with new members, it was interesting to see the dynamics of the group. We got through the formalities and minutes relatively quickly (by 21:30) and to my delight, more or less everyone stayed for further informal chat and progressing their actions as small teams – the last of us left at about 22:45.

Just to remind you of the committee members –

- Myself – Chairman
- John Quelch – Deputy Chairman
- Mike Winston – Membership Secretary
- John Crompton – Financial Secretary
- Andy Smith – Club Secretary
- Jon Harper – Training Rep'
- Mitch Mabbutt – BMFA & Safety Rep'
- Darren Brand – Competition Rep'
- Steve Bowdrey – Chinnor Field Rep'
- Ron Stephens – Flackwell Field Rep'
- Malcolm Connell – Newsletter Editor



This brings me to the first major decision I have had to make, and that is to enlist Ian Scottow with the specific task of Web Administrator and Communications Officer. The reason for this is that Malcolm, due to other issues has been unable to progress our new website and on occasions he is unable to send out timely messages / reminders to club members as he is often travelling to his family located in other parts of the country. So, shortly (if he hasn't already done so by the time you read this), the new website will be released and reminders and notices i.e. notification of events, competition "go" / "no go" communications etc, will come from Ian. Malcolm will continue with the newsletter as this is scheduled and easier to plan for.

As an additional note, Ian is very keen to get more content on the new website such as pictures, video's etc, but most importantly he wants to populate it with timely and relevant information i.e. he doesn't want it to appear static. So, if you can get in the habit of contributing, we can all look forward to a dynamically changing website.

Moving on, the webcam project showing the field and the direction of the windsock is now in place and visible on the new website. It updates every 5 minutes and it also allows you to see if other flyers are at the field. The Chinnor field can also have a webcam if they wish and we will wait for feedback from Steve Bowdrey on the usefulness and practicality of one, for the people who fly at the Chinnor field.

One of the agenda items is to release a new field plan for Flackwell. Both John Harper and Mitch are concluding this activity and we hope to have it available for comment on club night, preferably on an A3 sheet of paper, so it is clearer for all to see.

Unfortunately, the state of both Chinnor & Flackwell fields entrances have been compromised this winter. The Chinnor field is no longer accessible to drive up to and at Flackwell we have a major rut on the drive opposite the farmhouse, that if you are not careful with, you will scrape the bottom of your car. On the latter, there is a plan and the farmer is aware it needs addressing but needs the area to dry up a bit before he can take action. So, just be careful.

Many of you have noticed the more obvious subsidence on the Flackwell field in sympathy with the old plough lines. We have an appointment with a professional grounds man on Thursday 19th Feb' to explore how

we can “level off” the patch to overcome kangaroo landings where a peak or trough can make landings just a little too interesting! We are hoping it will be a simple case of using a heavy roller whilst the ground is soft.

As a committee, we are not short of ideas. Darren is planning to arrange more “fly-in’s”, competitions and generally “fun” events at the field and Jon is still hoping to gain support for scratch model building projects – so if you have any views on this, please chat to Darren and John as they are very keen to make a difference this year.

As planned, the Flackwell mower will be serviced before it is used in anger this year, this remains to be a significant investment which we need to protect. I also believe that the Chinnor mower needs some attention and at least a new blade.

On the subject of membership, we are down on members this year, but not alarmingly so. We hope to attract new members throughout the “early season”. 93 out of a possible 125 have re-joined, with 8 confirming they will not be re-joining. We are chasing these people up! One member who fly’s an F5B glider at the Chinnor field received comments from the farmer that it was too noisy so is hesitant about re-joining – I have asked Steve Bowdrey to investigate as a different prop’ may be the solution.

There is still work to do in hanging the new gate at the Flackwell field and also resolving a dent in the roof of the clubhouse so that water doesn’t collect and eventually rust. These items are probably better left until the weather improves. The clubhouse has been fantastic for those that have used it – cooking facilities have allowed for soup (in the case of a cold / damp hamper competition) and bacon / egg sandwiches’ have also been a favourite – of mine anyway!! (Thanks Ron for the fresh duck eggs!)

Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to come along to the new venue on Monday 23rd Feb’ for Club night. It is refreshing to be in a new location, they are very accommodating and we have a guest speaker on model gliders – no doubt Malcolm will expand on this in the newsletter.

I plan to do an article like this every month, so if there is anything that you wish me to include, i.e. it doesn’t have to be about committee business all the time, then please let me know.

Steve Berry
Chairman.

New Web Site and Web-Cam

As mentioned by Steve above, the new web site is now being completed and will be managed by Ian Scottow who is making a very good job of it. The big news is that the web-cam at the Flackwell field is now up and running. Again this has been mostly Ian’s work with some help from Mike Winston. The view across the pits and main flying area is very good and, although it is difficult to make out who individuals are, at least you can see if anyone is there. You can also get a good idea of weather conditions. The present address is <http://www.hwdmac.webeden.co.uk/webcam> but this will change when we can transfer the existing web address to the new site. The reason that the view looks as though the camera is looking down a telescope is because that is effectively what is happening. The camera is part of an old mobile phone located in the new clubhouse and is presently looking down a monocular.



Ian would like to incorporate interesting photos or video clips of Club activities so if you have any good recent ones please let him have copies. You will retain copyright but by supplying the photo you agree that it may be displayed on our web site.

Instructor and Examiner Directory

The Club has a number of quality trainers and access to examiners at A and B level. If you would like to take advantage of our structured training then please contact our Training Co-ordinator Jonathan (Jon) Harper. Otherwise you will often find Jon at the Flackwell field on fine evenings.

Committee Members for 2015

Office	Name
Chairman	Stephen Berry
Deputy Chairman	John Quelch
Treasurer	John Compton
Secretary	Andy Smith
Membership Secretary	Mike Winston
Competition Rep	Daren Brand
Training Rep	Jonathan Harper
Flackwell Rep	Ron Spencer
Chinnor Rep	Stephen Bowdrey
BFMA & Safety Rep	Mitch Mabbutt
Newsletter Editor	Malcolm Connell

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Meetings and Events in 2015

Date	Event
23 February	Talk by Dr Nick Newton of the Vintage Glider Club
23 March	Table top sale
27 April	Concours
18 May	Talk - Speaker and subject to be advised - <i>Note date is not 4th Monday</i>
22 June	At Flackwell Field
27 July	At Chinnor Field
24 August	Possible Summer fly-in
28 September	Possible auction
26 October	Talk - Speaker and subject to be advised
23 November	AGM and Subs payment